

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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P 250612Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 122304

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO LIMA MAY 23, 1975

FROM LA PAZ

QUOTELIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 3620

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BL

SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO GULF OIL ISSUE

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER HOY, IN ITS EDITORIAL OF MAY 23, DELIVERS ANOTHER STRONG BLAST AT GULF OIL COMPANY. EDITORIAL CRITICIZES GULF PRESIDENT DORSEY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF PREVIOUS DAY, CHARGING THAT DORSEY SEEKS TO ABSOLVE GULF OF BLAME FOR PROBLEMS CREATED BY "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS" ISSUE, WHILE LEAVING BOLIVIA WITH BURDEN OF GUILT FOR RESULTING DIFFICULTIES. LIKEWISE, HOY CONTENTS THAT DORSEY COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PERUVIAN NATIONALIZATION OF GULF IN THAT COUNTRY AGAIN SHOW LACK OF RESPECT FOR QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC MORALITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. LA PAZ PRESS OF MAY 23 ALSO REPORTS DECISION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT SAN ANDRES AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES TO HOLD PUBLIC "FORUM" ON GULF OIL QUESTION ON THAT DATE. STUDENTS HAVE INVITED MINISTERS, MILITARY OFFICERS, POLITICIANS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS TO PARTICIPATE IN SESSION, WHICH IS INTENDED TO REPLACE "MARCH IN DEFENSE OF NATIONAL DIGNITY" WHICH GOB SECURITY FORCES PREVENTED ON MAY 20. AMONG PERSONALITIES INVITED TO ATTEND FORUM ARE EX-PRESIDENT LUIS

ADOLFO SILES SALINAS, AIR FORCE COMMANDER OSCAR ADRIAZOLA,
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS GUILLERMO JIMENEZ AND
YPFB MANAGER ROLANDO PRADA.

3. ALL NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO CARRY SYMPATHETIC COMMENTS
FAVORING RELEASE OF CARLOS DORADO CHOPITEA, GULF OIL EMPLOYEE,
WHO IS NOW COMPLETING HIS SECOND FULL DAY IN SAN PEDRO PRISON,
LA PAZ.

4. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED BY VARIOUS SOURCES THAT ANTICIPATED
CABINET AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND CHANGES HAVE BEEN POST-
PONED BY PRESIDENT BANZER UNTIL GULF REVEALS NAMES OF PERSONS
WHO RECEIVED ALLEGED "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS".

5. RADIO PANAMERICANA CARRIED NEWS ITEM THAT GOB HAD TAKEN
DECISION TO NOT REPEAT NOT ALLOW ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO
PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY FORUM DESCRIBED ABOVE.

STEDMAN

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